



AGL NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING No. 26 HELD AT HUNTER REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO-CONFERENCING ON WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 10am

PRESENT	NAME	ORGANISATION
	Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
	Kevin Taylor (KT)	AGL – Head of Generation (Gas & Renewables)
	Arianna Henty (AH)	AGL – Snr Manager - Approvals
	John Moraitis (JM)*	AGL – Environment Manager
	Kourosh Maleklou	AGL - Asset Manager for NGSF
	Joanne Ferguson (JF)	AGL – Community Relations Coordinator
	Amelia O’Neill (AO)	AGL – Environment Manager, Battery Project
	Jeannie Lawson (JL)	Hunter Regional Gardens – Events & Fundraising Manager
	Kate Drinan (KD)*	Port Stephens Council – Natural Systems Coordinator <i>online – left at 10.35am</i>
	Leigh Ridgeway (LR)	NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group & Worimi Board member (guest/observer)
APOLOGIES	Mayor, Cr Leah Anderson	Port Stephens Council
	Monica Porte (MP)	John Holland & Gamuda Australia - Community & Stakeholder Engagement Lead
	John Simpson (JS)	Hunter Water Delegate
	Robyn Parker (RP)	Tomago Aluminium
	Gus Brown (GB)	Tomago Aluminium (alternate)
	Rob Cooper (RC)	AGL – Community Manager
	Ken Page (KP)	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens
ABSENT:	Mike Cowell	Port Stephens Koalas
	Peter Gessling	Hunter Business Chamber
	Dianne Ball	Wahroonga Aboriginal Corporation
	Brett Hoad	Transport for NSW - Deputy Project Director M1 Extension to Raymond Terrace

*Attended via video-conferencing.

The CDG meeting was opened at 10.07am.

Acknowledgement of Country – LA delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.

WELCOME	LA welcomed all attendees to the AGL Newcastle Gas Storage Facility Community Dialogue Group (CDG) and recognised those joining online and to assist asked all attendees to state their name and position on the CRG.	
APOLOGIES	As listed above.	
DECLARATIONS	LA advised that she is an Independent Chairperson, approved by the Department of Planning engaged by AGL to chair this CDG.	No changes to members’


		previous declarations.						
BUSINESS ARISING	<p>The minutes from the previous meeting held on 28 November 2024 were finalised and sent to members on 20 December 2024. There was one action item:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>ITEM</th> <th>ISSUE</th> <th>BY WHOM</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Send nomination form to LR – Complete.</td> <td>LA</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>No other business arising.</p>	ITEM	ISSUE	BY WHOM	1	Send nomination form to LR – Complete.	LA	1. Completed. LR submitted forms to Chair 26/2/25
ITEM	ISSUE	BY WHOM						
1	Send nomination form to LR – Complete.	LA						
CORRESPONDENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16/12/24 – Email to members with the draft minutes for review. 16/12/24 – Email to members advising of the passing of Audrey Kooseman. 20/12/24 - Email to members with the finalised minutes & presentation. 14/2/25 – Email to members with information regarding planned out of works hours for the M1 Motorway project (Raymond Terrace) 14/2/25 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda & Correspondence Report for this meeting. 21/2/25 – Email to members with reminder for this meeting & the site access mud map. 	As provided with meeting notice – emailed 14/2/25 with 1 additional item.						
NEWCASTLE GAS STORAGE FACILITY GENERAL	<p>KM provided the NGSF Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not much to report since last meeting; currently in holding mode No major incident, MTIs or LTIs Tank level 1,090 TJ Filling to re-commence on 3 March A number of safety drills have been undertaken. Happy with the outcomes. Major Storm hit area, which effected the Telstra network for a few days. Had to improvise to restore telecommunications on site. Satellite disc now installed as a back-up. Planned maintenance activities completed. Audit by EPA conducted. Two minor actions to be implemented. 	Slide 4						
ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE	<p>JM commenced the Environmental Update starting with – Personnel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulator visit (EPA) to NGSF on 13 February <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine – every two years. Two minor items identified; one administrative and one in relation to the sign at the pond. Action items have been created in AGL’s system for rectification. Upcoming visits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGL’s HSE Risk, Governance and Assurance advisor would like to visit in March/April Concept idea – tour of NGSF open to CDG members/visitors <p>JM advised members that he would like to maintain more regular visits due to recent staff changes.</p>	<p>Slide 5-8</p> <p>Action: Site tour of NGSF to be arranged for Q3 CDG.</p>						

	<p>BIODIVERSITY</p> <p>Weed management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of Old Punt Road are overgrown – mowing request submitted • Trees along edges of pipeline ROW, blocking signage • Minor infestations (lantana, broadleaves) along our pipeline easement onsite – being treated • Minor infestations of spiny rush (<i>Juncus acutus</i>) onsite – being treated <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Feral deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGL has commissioned Cool Burn to advise on feral deer management across: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NGSF ○ Medowie Offset property • AGL propose to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Understand its impacts ○ Determine whether control is needed ○ Determine choice of control having regard to neighbouring properties. <p>Bushfire Cameras</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trials at our Loy Yang power station (Melbourne) have not progressed to the point of making an informed choice • Going out to market to pursue other trials from additional providers • Process being managed by AGL's Senior Manager of Security and Emergency at Loy Yang <p>KM advised that 10 cameras have been replaced at the NGSF which provide a higher resolution and gives operators more confidence that they can pick up fire and smoke.</p> <p>KT suggested that this matter be raised at the meeting with Emergency Services on Friday 28/2/25 to see if they have any recommendations.</p> <p>Water Monitoring</p> <p>AO commenced her presentation, advising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater and surface water sampling completed in accordance with the Operations Water Management Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Most recent monitoring conducted in September 2024 and results discussed at last CDG • Review of ongoing monitoring program requirements completed 	<p>Slide 9</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recommendation to change frequency from 6 monthly to annual. Based on ○ Robust data with 19 monitoring rounds with baseline, construction and operational monitoring data ○ No increase in risk of environmental harm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ analytes do fluctuate but concentrations well below drinking water criteria ▪ low rate of change • Changes to be endorsed in an updated Operations Water Management Plan • Next monitoring scheduled for March 2025 and then if approved, will continue annually in March each year. <p>JL raised, on behalf of Ken Page:</p> <p>The orchids at the Meadowie site that were discussed between him & John M at the last meeting. Ken requested that when the planned orchid survey occurs, the Gardens' Orchid Team would like to visit the site. JM agreed to this request, stating that he will contact the ecologist managing the facility and make arrangements with Ken for the team to visit the site and be shown the locations. Action.</p>	<p>JM to contact ecologist at Meadowie to arrange site inspection with Ken Page for Orchid Team to visit.</p>
<p>COMMUNITY</p>	<p>Jo Ferguson commenced her presentation by showing photographs of a cultural heritage development day attended by AGL staff at Stockton the previous day.</p> <p>2024 Deadly Awards</p> <p>Local Youyoong AECG annual Deadly Awards recognises the achievement of Aboriginal students who have excelled in fields of learning, sport or leadership. Staff who have made a special contribution are also honoured. <i>Youyoong is a Worimi word meaning 'to go further'.</i></p> <p>Natural Disaster Declaration in Port Stephens</p> <p>Following a storm in the Port Stephens area in mid-January, the Hunter Regional Botanic Gardens were severely impacted. The area was declared a natural disaster. Unfortunately the Gardens has been closed as clean-up occurs onsite. AGL staff have volunteered time to assist HRBG volunteers.</p> <p>JL commented that HRBG are paying \$5,000 per day for arborists to be on site. RFS volunteers have also been assisting. JL thanked AGL for its \$5,000 donation towards works and for AGL giving up their time to help. It was very beneficial for morale.</p>	<p>Slides 10-15</p> <p>See photographs</p> <p>See Photographs</p>

	<p>JF highlighted that staff are interested in undertaking chain saw training so they can assist in future events if required.</p> <p>AGL School Lunchbox Program</p> <p>Food insecurity in Australia has reached a critical point. Almost half of low-income households have faced food insecurity in 2024, the worst the situation has been since the cost-of-living crisis began. AGL's support provides families in need in the Port Stephens area with lunchbox snacks for the school year.</p> <p>Supporting prosperity of our communities</p> <p>Events help communities show off their tourism, boost the economy, and create a lively atmosphere. They attract loyal visitors and bring opportunities for tourism, trade, and investment to local areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newcastle Fringe Festival; and • Newcastle Show. 	
<p>AGL UPDATE</p>	<p>KT provided the AGL Update commencing with the FY25 Half-Year Results that were announced last week. There has been strong financial performance; with continued execution on business strategy and decarbonisation plan</p> <p>KT commented on the Netflix package, which is popular with customers.</p> <p>KT explained how AGL are turning down its power stations during the day to allow renewables to fill this space. Then ramping up power during the late afternoon/evening during peak demand.</p> <p>AGL are continuing to move to firming energy and moving away from gas plants.</p> <p>Fully franked dividend and on track to deliver FY25 guidance.</p> <p>Improvement in safety performance; CSAT and employee engagement scores remain steady</p> <p>AGL's investment in flexibility and availability is continuing to deliver value</p> <p>AGL's development pipeline has grown to 7 GW, with new firming options added following acquisitions</p> <p>Clear pathway to FID for 1.4 GW of batteries in the next 12-18 months Targeting FID on 1 GW of battery projects in CY25.</p>	<p>Slides 16 – 25</p>

	<p>500 MW Liddell Battery on track for early 2026. 250 MW expected to be operational in early 2026; remaining 250 MW expected by April 2026.</p> <p>Priorities for FY 2025</p> <p>Customers - Helping customers decarbonise the way they live, move and work while transforming our retail business.</p> <p>Portfolio - Developing renewable and firming capacity pipeline, including repurposing existing thermal sites into energy hubs</p> <p>Business - Running the business exceptionally well, while maintaining a strong focus on health, environment and safety.</p>	
<p>TOMAGO BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM 500MW/2000MWh (4 hours duration)</p>	<p>AH provided an update on the TBESS state significant development approved by the Minister on 22/11/24.</p> <p>The Schedule is on target with construction due to commence in Q2 2026 to 2028 and be operational from 2028.</p> <p>AH explained that it will be necessary to apply for a modification to the consent as there will be more OSOM vehicles required than originally estimated.</p> <p>Proposed Amendments AGL seeks to amend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Condition B1: increase heavy vehicle movements (requiring escort) – currently a maximum of 12 during construction, upgrading and decommissioning. Update Addendum TIA ○ Condition B28: enable staging (Condition C3) of FSS so that approval of the final FSS for the battery components is not required until the components, are due to be installed and energised. Note – 132kv Transmission Line Route chosen. <p>Post Approvals Requirements Conditions of Consent includes completion/preparation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a new access point off Old Punt Road ○ an independent dilapidation survey ○ detailed plans of final layout & commencement dates ○ Traffic management plan in consultation with TfNSW ○ Biodiversity Management Plan in consultation with BCS ○ Heritage Management Plan in consultation with Heritage NSW and Aboriginal stakeholders ○ Fire Safety Study in consultation with FRNSW and DPHI 	<p>Slide 26 – 29</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Environmental Management Strategy to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary o VPA agreements with PSC o Credit modification report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Removal of 330kV transmission line option (132kv selected) o Additional surveys completed for flora and fauna post approval <p>LR enquired who would be engaged to prepare the Heritage Management Plan. AO advised that AECOM will be the consultant and they will work with Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council.</p> <p>Tomago Battery Site Weed Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Council notified AGL of an outbreak of a high priority weed (Groundsel Bush) via email on 30 Sept 2024 o Site inspection with Council, AGL and AGL engaged ecologist (Coolburn) undertaken on 8 Oct 2024 o Worimi Green Team operations manager Ray McMillan inspected site on 23 Jan 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Plant has not flowered yet; generally occurs in spring. o First round of weed management to commence soon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o ensure that Groundsel cannot flower this season o compliance with biosecurity obligations o posi-track with mulching head and spot spraying to be used. o Ongoing monitoring and management to occur prior to construction and as part of Biodiversity Management Plan (condition of consent) during construction/operation. 	Slide 30
GENERAL BUSINESS	LR praised how JF has been an inspiration to the local kids and community. Explaining her efforts, working alongside in partnership with them. LR thanked AGL for fostering the changes that are happening in their community.	JF was congratulated for her efforts.
NEXT MEETING	 Wednesday 28 May 2025 on site at Hunter Region Botanic Gardens, commencing at 10am	No objections.

Meeting closed at 10.59am with LA thanking members for their attendance and to be careful leaving the site due to workers repairing storm damage.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Site Inspection to be arranged for Q3 meeting	KM/JM/LA
2	Contact between ecologist & Ken Page to arrange site inspection with Gardens' Orchid Team to visit Medowie.	JM/KP